

Application No. 10/805,161
RCE and Amendment
Reply to Office Action of May 18, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1. (currently amended) A method of stabilizing a surface, the method comprising the steps of:

disposing a porous element on a surface to be stabilized; depositing a flowable material onto the porous element, said flowable material entering openings defined within said porous element, said flowable material comprising a mixture of fibers and a polymeric bonding material; and

allowing the flowable material to form a solidified material solidify within said openings, thereby forming the porous element and the solidified material forming a microclimate said surface favorable to growth of vegetation from said surface through said porous element.

Claim 2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of depositing a flowable material is performed after the step of disposing the porous element on the surface to be stabilized.

Claim 3. (original) The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of fastening the porous element onto the surface to be stabilized before the step of depositing the flowable material.

Claim 4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of depositing comprises the step of injecting the flowable material into the porous element.

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Claim 5. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein the step of injecting comprises injecting the flowable material into the porous element using conventional seeding apparatus.

Claim 6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of depositing comprises hydraulically applying the flowable material to the porous element.

Claim 7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of depositing comprises hydraulically applying the flowable material into the porous element.

Claim 8. (cancelled)

Claim 9. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the porous element comprises a reinforced fiber matting.

Claim 10. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the porous element comprises a three-dimensional, cellular matting.

Claim 11. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the porous element comprises a substantially two-dimensional netting material.

Claim 12. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of disposing comprises securing the porous element to the surface prior to the step of depositing.

Claim 13. (previously presented) A system for stabilizing a surface prone to soil erosion, the system comprising:

a porous element disposed on the surface to be stabilized;
and

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a solidified fiber matrix material incorporated within the porous element and comprising a mixture of fibers and a polymeric material;

the system being made by anchoring the porous element to the surface and thereafter injecting the matrix material into the porous element while the matrix material is in a fluid state and thereafter allowing the matrix material to solidify within openings defined within the porous element.

Claim 14. (original) The system of claim 13 wherein the porous element is a cellular matting.

Claim 15. (original) The system of claim 13 wherein the porous element comprises a netting material.

Claim 16. (cancelled)

Claim 17. (previously presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the porous element comprises a three-dimensional erosion control blanket.

Claim 18. (currently amended) A system for stabilizing a surface prone to soil erosion, the system comprising:

a three-dimensional fibrous erosion control blanket disposed on a surface; and

a solidified porous matrix material comprising a mixture of fibers and a polymeric bonding material, the matrix material being bonded to and incorporated within the blanket;

the system being made by placing the fibrous erosion control blanket on a surface prone to erosion without the matrix material being incorporated within the blanket, and thereafter hydraulically applying the matrix material to the blanket while

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the matrix material is in a fluid state, and thereafter allowing the matrix material to solidify within the blanket thereby forming a microclimate favorable to growth of vegetation from said surface through said porous element.

Claim 19 (previously presented) The system of claim 18 wherein the matrix material comprises a hydromulch.

Claim 20 (previously presented) The system of claim 18 wherein the matrix material comprises a polymeric component.

Claim 21. (previously presented) The method of claim 4 wherein the step of injecting comprises injecting the flowable material into the porous element using hydraulic mulching apparatus.

Claim 22. (currently amended) The method system of claim 13 wherein the matrix material is injected into the porous element using hydraulic mulching apparatus.